

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07720 141508Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----088382 141509Z /53
O 141354Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9809

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7720

EXDIS

FOR NEA ASST SEC SAUNDERS FROM CHARGE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IR
SUBJ: BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 204746

1. DURING AUDIENCE AUGUST 13 I INFORMED SHAH THAT LETTER FROM PRESIDENT (REFTEL) WOULD BE COMING THIS WEEK AND THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PEACE PROSPECTS. HE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHARE HIS OBSERVATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS CLEARLY DISAPPOINTED THAT NEITHER YOU NOR ROY COULD VISIT AT THIS TIME.

2. COMMENT: I HOPE THE LETTER WILL BE HIGHLY SUBSTANTIVE AND WILL SHARE WITH THE SHAH MANY OF OUR PRESENT CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING THE SUMMIT AND THE PEACE PROCESS. I REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE MANY CONSTITUENCIES WHICH NEED TO BE BRIEFED BUT I URGE YOU TO MAKE THIS LETTER, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PERSONAL IN TONE. THE SHAH IS CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH ONE OF HIS PERIODIC EPISODES OF WONDERING WHERE HE STANDS WITH US. ONE RECEIVES CONTINUOUSLY FROM TOP OFFICIALS THE TENTATIVE QUERY

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WHETHER THE US AND SOVIETS HAVE STRUCK A DEAL WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO IRAN. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM HIT THIS ONE HEAD ON WITH THE SHAH DURING HIS AUDIENCE IN JULY, BUT IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT HE CONTINUES TO BE NERVOUS AND SUSPICIOUS. ON HIS PART, HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT SPEAKS WITH THE SAME VOICE AS THAT OF MOSCOW, AND IS ONCE AGAIN CONCERNED THAT THE US

DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION.
ALSO, AS YOU HAVE SEEN FROM OUR REPORTING, IRAN IS
UNDERGOING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF POLITICAL TURMOIL
--MUCH OF IT THE RESULT, OF COURSE, OF THE SHAH'S OWN
DETERMINATION OT OPEN THE SOCIETY AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS
OF RATHER STRONG CONTROL. HE IS JUST AS UNCERTAIN AS
ANY OTHER IRANIAN OF PRECISELY HOW THIS POLICY WILL
UNFOLD AND NERVOUS ABOUT AMERICAN REACTION TO CURRENT
EVENTS AS WELL AS HAVING NAGGING SUSPICIONS THAT WE ARE
SOMEHOW, WHETHER CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY,
ENCOURAGING THE DISSIDENTS. AS YOU KNOW, THE BELIEF,
NO MATTER HOW RIDICULOUS, OF A FOREIGN HAND BEING
INVOLVED IN ALMOST ANYTHING OF CONSEQUENCE IS DEEP IN
THE PERSIAN SOUL. THE SHAH, HIMSELF, IS NO MORE
IMMUNE FROM THESE FEARS THAN ANY OF HIS COMPATRIOTS.

2. THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT WE CAN DO DURING THESE
PERIODS BUT I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU BRIEFLY THE
CURRENT MOOD AND TO LET YOU KNOW THAT A LETTER
DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR HIM COULD BE HELPFUL ON
SEVERAL ACCOUNTS.
END COMMENT.
NAAS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS
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Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
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